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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MASS. TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

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Journal of the Proceedings

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION,

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BEGUN AND HELD AT WORCESTER,

On Wednesday, September 18, 1833.

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1833.

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April 28 1904

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

Pursuant to the invitation of the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, and the Essex County Temperance Society, Delegates appointed by various Temperance Societies in the Commonwealth, to the number of 496, assembled in Convention, at the meeting-house of the First Parish in Worcester, on Wednesday, the 18th day of September, 1833, to consider the best means of extending, by a general diffusion of information, and the exertion of a kind and persuasive moral influence, the principle of abstinence from the use of ardent spirit throughout our country. John C. Warren, of Boston, President of the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, called the meeting to order.

Emory Washburn, of Worcester, was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*, and John C. Warren was chosen Chairman of the meeting, *pro tem.*

On motion, a Committee of Nomination was raised, consisting of one person from each county represented; and

William Sullivan, of Boston,
James Walker, of Charlestown,
Alfred D. Foster, of Worcester,
Cecil Dwight, of Northampton,
William Reed, of Marblehead,
Henry Colman, of Deerfield,
Oliver B. Morris, of Springfield,
Edward A. Newton, of Pittsfield,
Nathaniel Miller, of Franklin,
Samuel Crocker, of Taunton,
Wilkes Wood, of Middleborough, and
John Read, of Yarmouth,

were chosen, who were directed to report the names of one person as President, four persons as Vice Presidents, and four persons as Secretaries of the Convention.

The committee reported the following persons for the aforesaid offices, viz.:

LEVI LINCOLN, of Worcester, *President.*
JOHN C. WARREN, of Boston,
SAMUEL LATHROP, of West Springfield,
WILLIAM REED, of Marblehead,
WILKES WOOD, of Middleborough,
Vice Presidents.
EMORY WASHBURN, of Worcester,
JOHN W. YEOMANS, of Pittsfield,
THOMAS A. GREEN, of New Bedford,
LUTHER S. CUSHING, of Cambridge,
Secretaries.

This report was unanimously accepted, and the officers above named entered upon the duties of their office.

On motion of Charles Tappan, of Boston, it was voted that the meeting of the Convention be opened with prayer; and upon the request of the President, prayer was offered by Rev. Gardner B. Perry, of Bradford.

On motion, a Standing Committee, to consist of seven members, was voted to be raised, who should report to the Convention rules and regulations for the transaction of business, and also such subjects as in their opinion ought to occupy its attention.

JUSTIN EDWARDS, of Andover,
WM. SULLIVAN, of Boston,
HOSEA HILDRETH, of Gloucester,
MARK DOOLITTLE, of Belchertown,
JOHN READ, of Yarmouth,
STEPHEN C. PHILLIPS, of Salem, and
ABIJAH BIGELOW, of Worcester, were chosen.

On motion of Mr. Colman, of Deerfield, it was voted, that when the Convention adjourn, it be to half past two o'clock this afternoon, and that when it adjourns in the afternoon, it be to 7 o'clock this evening.

A communication from the Committee of Dukes County Temperance Society was received, and read by the President, in which they express their regret, that, owing to unavoidable circumstances, they should not be represented in the Convention, but expressing their hearty co-operation in the measures which might be adopted to promote the great and good cause—committed to the Standing Committee.

On motion of Mr. Grant, of Boston, voted, That the officers of this Convention be authorized to employ two or more gentlemen to act under their superintendence as official Reporters of the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Gray, of Boston, Resolved, That the editors of public papers, or their agents, be allowed seats in this Convention, that they may take notes and report the proceedings thereof.

The Standing Committee reported certain resolutions for regulating the proceedings of the Convention, which were adopted, viz.:

I. *Resolved*, That the Convention meet at 9 o'clock, A. M. while in session, and adjourn at 1 o'clock, P. M., and meet at half past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and at 7 o'clock in the evening.

II. *Resolved*, That the proceedings of the Convention be opened each day, and finally concluded, with prayer.

III. *Resolved*, That all committees be nominated by the President.

IV. *Resolved*, That all resolutions shall be in writing, and shall, without discussion, be committed to the Committee of Arrangements, and that after the final report of the Committee of Arrangements, it shall be competent for any member to present for consideration any resolution not embraced by the report of said Committee.

V. *Resolved*, That no member of the Convention be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at a time, and not more than twice on any subject or question, without the consent of the Convention.

VI. *Resolved*, That a committee of one member from each county be appointed, to consider in what manner it is most practicable and expedient to provide for a more complete and efficient Temperance organization in this Commonwealth.

The following persons were chosen on the committee recommended in the last resolution, viz.:

JOHN TAPPAN, of Boston, for Suffolk county,
GARDNER B. PERRY, of Bradford, for Essex,
WILLIAM JACKSON, of Newton, for Middlesex,
ALFRED D. FOSTER, of Worcester, for Worcester,
MARK DOOLITTLE, of Belchertown, for Hampshire,
ZEBINA C. NEWCOMB, of Bernardston, for Franklin,
JOHN W. YEOMANS, of Pittsfield, for Berkshire,
EBENEZER ALDEN, of Randolph, for Norfolk,
JAMES ARNOLD, of New Bedford, for Bristol,
ZENAS D. BASSETT, of Barnstable, for Barnstable,
SETH SPRAGUE, of Duxbury, for Plymouth.

A communication from the Temperance Society in Blandford was read by the President, and referred to the Standing Committee.

Mr. Bradford, of New Bedford, offered a resolution to inquire whether ardent spirits may not be dispensed with as a medicine in the treatment of all diseases, which was read and referred to the committee.

Mr. Colman offered a resolution that no matter not connected with the subject of Temperance be offered to the Convention, which was read and referred to the committee.

On motion of Mr. Morris, the Convention adjourned at half past 12 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met at half past 2 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

A letter from J. M. Earle was communicated by the President, informing the Convention that he had received from the chairman of the Executive Committee of the New York State Temperance Society, 300 circulars to County Temperance Societies; 400 of the "Ox Discourse," so called; 200 Temperance Almanacs for the year 1834; 200 Temperance Recorders, No. 7, with a request that they might be distributed among the members of this Convention.

On motion of Mr. Russel, of Kingston, the President was requested to transmit, through Mr. Earle, to the New York State Temperance Society's Committee, the thanks of this Convention for their liberal donation.

Mr. Morton, of Plymouth, offered a resolution concerning the traffic in ardent spirits, which, upon motion, was laid upon the table.

Mr. Hilliard, of Lowell, offered certain resolutions relative to legislative enactments in restraint of the traffic in ardent spirits, which were read, and referred to the committee.

Mr. Shepherd, of Millbury, offered a memorial from the Millbury Temperance Society, upon the same subject, which was read, and referred to the same committee.

Mr. Wm. H. Richardson, of Boston, presented a Report of the Young Men's Temperance Society, upon the same subject, which, upon his own motion, was referred to the same committee.

On motion of Mr. Burbank, of Worcester, a committee was raised to report the names of such visiters present as they may think proper to invite to take seats in the Convention. The committee consisted of

Messrs. Burbank, of Worcester,
Nelson, of Leicester,
Bradford, of New Bedford.

Mr. Burbank, of the last named committee, reported the names of the following gentlemen, who were invited to take seats in the Convention, viz.: Wm. Noyes, of Washington City; Rev. Dr. Bancroft, of Worcester; Oliver Fiske, of Worcester; Thomas Clay, of Savannah; John Neal, of Portland; and Rev. George Chapman, of Boston.

The Standing Committee reported the following resolutions, which were read and adopted:

I. *Resolved*, That we regard with high satisfaction, the formation of the American Congressional Temperance Society, and also of the Massachusetts Legislative Temperance Society, and express our earnest hope, that similar societies may speedily be formed in the Legislatures of each State throughout our country.

II. That the means adopted for the abolition of the use of ardent spirits in the United States' Army and Navy, while they are highly conducive to the welfare of soldiers and seamen, are adapted in various ways to promote the good of the community.

III. That the abolition of the practice, to a great extent, of furnishing merchant, coasting and fishing vessels with ardent spirit, has been highly salutary, and should it become universal, would save an immense amount of property, and multitudes of valuable lives.

IV. That the increase of grocery stores and public houses, in which ardent spirit is not furnished, is removing one of the chief causes of intemperance, and it is hoped that they may become universal.

V. That, in compliance with the resolution of the United States Temperance Convention, assembled in Philadelphia on the 24th of May, 1833, we recommend to all Temperance Societies and friends of temperance in this Commonwealth, to unite with the humane and philanthropic throughout this and other countries, in holding simultaneous Temperance meetings in every city, town, and village, on the LAST TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY, 1834.*

VI. That the friends of Temperance in each town, be requested to obtain information, and communicate the same at the simultaneous meetings, contemplated in the 5th resolution, upon the following questions, viz.:

What is the population? What number belong to the Temperance Society? How many have renounced the traffic in ardent spirit? How many still continue it? What quantity is used, and at what expense? How many who have been drunkards, now use no intoxicating drink? How many paupers are there in the town,—what is the expense of supporting them,—and what proportion of this is occasioned directly or indirectly by ardent spirit? How many criminals were prosecuted for offences during the past year? At what expense,—and how many of them used no ardent spirit?

VII. That it be recommended that County Societies be formed throughout this Commonwealth, and that each County Society take the direction of the temperance cause within its own limits; employ an agent or agents, to visit every town; to form a Temperance Society in every place in which there is none; enlarge as much as possible all that are formed, and continue their operations till the community are all united in the temperance cause.

VIII. That editors of papers and periodicals, who from time to time advocate the cause of temperance, and diffuse public information on the subject, are rendering an important service to the community; and should all editors pursue a similar course, they would render themselves the benefactors of their country.

IX. That should the young men of this Commonwealth, in every place, and especially in all literary institutions, unite in Temperance Societies, they would do much to promote the success of the temperance cause.

X. That the influence of females in favor of Temperance, has been highly and extensively salutary; and should they, in view of the deep interest which they have in the subject, universally exert their influence in its favor, they would become still more eminently the benefactors of their country.

XI. That the explicit and united testimony of seventy-five physicians of Boston, and many in other parts of the Commonwealth, that the use of ardent spirit is never beneficial to men in health, and is a frequent cause of disease and death, as well as the numerous facts illustrating the truth of the above testimony, demand the careful attention of the whole community, and show that those who furnish spirit to be drunk by their

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* See Appendix, A.

fellow-men, are often, in effect, thereby instrumental in occasioning their premature death.

XII. That, in the view of this Convention, the traffic in ardent spirit is morally wrong; and that we deem it our duty, in respect to our own practice, to abstain from such traffic, and thus to do what we can, by the combined influence of opinion and example, to promote its universal abandonment.

XIII. That medical gentlemen throughout the Commonwealth, be requested to inquire whether substitutes for alcohol may not be found, and its use be dispensed with in medical practice, and to give the result of their investigation to the public.

XIV. That the fundamental and highly salutary influences of temperance on the purity and permanency of free institutions, and also on the intellectual elevation, the moral character, the social happiness and the future prospects of mankind, ought to receive for it the countenance, and united and persevering co-operation of all the patriotic and humane of every condition, age and country.

XV. That the success of past efforts for the promotion of temperance calls for fervent gratitude to the Author of all good, for increased and continued effort, till temperance shall become universal.

Mr. Abbot, of Worcester, in behalf of the Worcester Temperance Society, communicated a request that the Committee of Arrangements would consider the expediency of holding a public meeting in this place to-morrow evening, which was read and referred to said committee.

Mr. Lee, of Barre, offered a resolution upon the subject of the sale of ardent spirits by Inn-keepers on the Sabbath, which was read and referred to the committee.

The Convention adjourned at half past 5 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION, (WEDNESDAY.)

The Convention met at 7 o'clock.

The Standing Committee reported a resolution, recommending a public meeting to be held in this place to-morrow evening—adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Gray, of Boston, to reconsider the vote adopting the resolution concerning the traffic in ardent spirits, as reported by the committee, with a view of offering a substitute, which was discussed, and before any vote was taken, the Convention adjourned.

Thursday Morning, Sept. 19.

The Convention met, at 9 o'clock. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Blagden, of Boston.

Mr. Bradford, of the Committee on Invitation of Strangers, reported the names of Messrs. Bolles, of New York, and Bolles, of Vera Cruz, (Mexico,) who were thereupon invited to take seats in this Convention.

The President laid before the Convention a communication from Mr. Grant, on the subject of certain publications on Temperance,

published by Messrs. Ford & Damrell. Also a communication from the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, by their Secretary, J. B. Flint, presenting to the Convention 300 copies of the Examination of the License Laws, by L. M. Sargent; and as many copies of an Address by the same gentleman as will supply each member with a copy; which communications, on motion of Mr. Russel, of Kingston, were referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

Mr. Powers, of Kingston, offered a resolution in relation to the preparation of a history of the Temperance reformation, which was read and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

Mr. Lee, of Barre, offered a resolution in relation to patronizing traders and inn-keepers who do not deal in ardent spirits, which was read and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

Mr. Phinny, of Pawtucket, offered a resolution relative to the use of fermented liquors as a substitute for ardent spirits, by the pretended friends of Temperance, which was read and referred to the same committee.

Mr. Phelps, of Greenfield, offered a resolution in relation to the employment of teachers of youth who are opposed to the Temperance cause, which was read and referred to same committee.

Mr. Russell, of Kingston, offered a resolution recommending to those engaged in making or selling ardent spirit, an examination into the causes which have led to the assembling of this Convention, which was read and referred to the same committee.

Mr. C. Tappan, of Boston, offered a resolution, that Temperance public houses deserve the support of the members of this Convention, which was read and referred to the same committee.

Mr. Penny offered a resolution relative to an address to the public, and the preparation of a temperance circular, which was adopted, and, on motion, was referred to a select committee, consisting of

Messrs. Penny, of Northampton,
W. Sullivan, of Boston,
Phillips, of Salem,
Congdon, of New Bedford,
Morris, of Springfield,
Park, of Worcester.

Mr. Fitch, of Weston, offered a resolution concerning seamen, which was read and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

Mr. Oliphant, of Beverly, offered a resolution approving the conduct of Selectmen who have refused to approbate for licenses, &c., which was read and referred to the same committee.

Mr. Reed, of Marblehead, offered a resolution to suspend the rule of the Convention requiring resolutions to be committed to the Committee of Arrangements, limiting the time to half past 10 o'clock this morning, which was read and adopted.

Mr. Sedgwick, of Stockbridge, offered a resolution proposing to raise a fund to be applied in premiums for essays upon the subject of the physical constitution of man as affected by the use of ardent spirits, to be adapted especially to the use of the laboring classes in the community, which was read and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

Mr. J. Tappan, of the Committee upon the organization of the friends of Temperance, made the following report, accompanied with resolutions, which were read and accepted, viz.:

The Committee to whom was referred "*the consideration of the manner in which it is most practicable, and expedient, to provide for a more complete and efficient organization of Temperance Societies within this Commonwealth,*" have carefully attended to the duty assigned to them, and beg leave to offer the following

REPORT.

The advanced and widely progressing state of public sentiment, in the temperance reform, loudly calls for a more systematic, united and efficient organization of Societies throughout the whole State; that regular communications may be easily made through them, so as to reach every family within its limits. What is now most needed, is *information* carried home to every fireside, and pressed in a kind and persuasive manner upon all our inhabitants, especially upon those, whose access to the usual sources of information is the most difficult. To effect this, is one of the primary objects of this Convention, and the friends of temperance are looking to them with the deepest anxiety, to take such measures as shall infuse new energy into every existing Society, and lead to the formation of others, where none have been formed, to the end that our entire population, of both sexes, over the age of 12 years, may be enrolled under the banner of *total abstinence from ardent spirit.* As a preliminary measure, they recommend an efficient and energetic Society, to be denominated the Massachusetts State Temperance Society, and that measures be immediately taken to connect with it a Society in every county, as an auxiliary, and that the County Societies should feel that they have not accomplished their work, until temperance publications are placed in every family within their limits, and Societies formed in every place in which it is practicable. These last Societies, by corresponding with, and making regular returns to the County Societies, would enable the latter to make complete reports to the State Society, and furnish materials for an annual report from the fountain head, which would impart new energy through every auxiliary to the inhabitants of the entire Commonwealth, and place it where it should stand, *first and foremost among its sister States,* in this GREAT and GOOD work.

With these views, they recommend the following resolutions:

I. That there be a Massachusetts State Temperance Society, with auxiliaries in every county.

II. The officers of all Temperance Societies, founded on the principle of the State Society, shall be *ex-officio* members of the State Society.

III. The officers of all County Societies in the State, shall be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee, or Board of Council of the State Society.

IV. Each County Society shall have liberty to send delegates to the State Society, at its annual meetings, not exceeding ten in number from each auxiliary.

The Committee further report:

That the ancient and venerable Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, having recently altered their constitution and title, and taken that of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, on the principle recommended in this report, and embracing men of high character and well known influence, it is recommended that this be the State Temperance Society, and that all enlist under their banners, and help them and ourselves to carry forward the great and good work, in which *every man* of *every denomination*, and *party*, should engage—that of making this an entire Temperance State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order, JOHN TAPPAN,
Chairman.

Mr. Hildreth, Secretary of the Massachusetts Society, at the same time communicated a copy of the amended Constitution of that Society, as follows:

CONSTITUTION

Of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, as amended Sept. 19, 1833.

Whereas, the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance was instituted twenty years ago, and at a time when the precise duties of the promoters of Temperance could not be defined by any previous experience; and whereas it is now known that a great change has taken place in public opinion as to the use of intoxicating liquors; and that this change has chiefly been effected by means of Temperance Societies, adopting and inculcating the principle of entire abstinence from the use of ardent spirit as drinks; whereas the said Massachusetts Society, in common with other societies, for several years past, has fully recognised the above principle, in various resolutions unanimously

adopted; and whereas it is very desirable, that a more complete and efficient State organization of the Commonwealth, than has hitherto existed for the promotion of Temperance, should now be formed; Therefore, we, the present members of the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, with grateful respect to the venerable founders of this Institution, and with the earnest desire of promoting more effectually, their humane and Christian design, do now adopt the following as the amended Constitution of said Society.

Art. 1. This Society shall hereafter be called the Massachusetts Temperance Society; and its members pledge themselves, that they will not use distilled spirits as drink, nor provide it as an article of refreshment for their friends, nor for persons in their employment; that they will not engage in the manufacture of ardent spirit, nor traffic in the same; and that in all suitable ways they will discountenance its use in the community.

Art. 2. Any citizen of this Commonwealth may become a member of this Society by signing this Constitution. It is provided, however, that all officers of Temperance Societies in this Commonwealth, adopting the principle of entire abstinence from ardent spirit as a drink, shall, *ex-officio*, be members of this Society; and that each County Society, and Society embracing a number of towns, and adopting the above principle, shall be allowed to send not exceeding ten delegates to the meetings of this Society.

Art. 3. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and four Counsellors,—who shall be elected at the annual meetings, and together constitute a Board of Council for managing its concerns. Three of the above officers, one being the President or Vice President, shall be authorized to act at any meeting regularly called. It is provided, however, that the officers of county societies, and societies embracing a number of towns, adopting the principle of entire abstinence, shall, *ex-efficio*, be members of the Board of Council, it being expected that said societies will furnish annual reports of their doings.

Art. 4. The officers of the Society shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur during the year for which they shall be elected; to cause to be printed and distributed any tracts or essays; to correspond with Temperance Societies; to employ agents; and to take all other measures which they may deem expedient to promote Temperance.

Art. 5. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in Boston, in the month of May; and other meetings may be held where and when the Board of Council may direct; and whenever nine members of the Society shall, by written application address-

ed to the President, request him to call a meeting, he shall, on such request, call a meeting, as soon thereafter as may be.

Art. 6. The Board of Council shall appoint a committee, to be called the Committee of Finance, whose duty it shall be to devise ways and means for collecting money by subscription, donation, or otherwise, for the use of this Society; and who shall pay to the Treasurer all money by them so collected; and said Committee shall examine the Treasurer's accounts at some convenient time before the annual meeting, and certify the state thereof to the Board of Council, that the same may be reported to the Society at their annual meeting. And said Committee shall have power to authorize suitable persons, in the various parts of the Commonwealth, to receive subscriptions and donations for the benefit of the Society.

Art. 7. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to pay all demands against the Society, which the Board of Council shall order; and such order shall be a sufficient voucher for making such payment.

Art. 8. This Constitution may be altered at any annual meeting of the Society, provided that notice be given, in one or more papers printed in each of the counties, at least two weeks previous to said meeting, that it is intended to consider the expediency of altering the Constitution; and at such meeting, or any adjournment thereof, the majority of the members present shall have power, by their duly ascertained votes, to alter and amend this Constitution, as they may think expedient.

Mr. Lee, of Barre, presented a resolution relative to the sale of ardent spirit on public occasions, such as musters, reviews, &c., which was read and referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

The Committee of Arrangements, reported the following resolutions, which were read and accepted, viz.:

I. That the Secretaries of the Temperance Societies in the several towns, be requested, immediately after the simultaneous meetings, in February, to transmit the answers to the questions proposed in the 6th Resolution, to the Secretaries of the County Societies; and the Secretary of each County Society, is requested to embody the information thus obtained, and transmit it to the Secretary of the State Temperance Society, who is requested to embody it in a report, that it may be disseminated throughout the community.

II. That the usefulness of Temperance Societies has been conclusively tested by experience, and that we now look with confidence to the wise and good who love their country and fellow-men, hoping and trusting that they will ere long publicly unite with us in a cause which cannot fail to commend itself to their hearts and understandings.

III. That the success of the friends of Temperance in leading drunkards to abstain from the use of intoxicating drink, and in preserving others from its baneful influence, affords the highest encouragement to an increased and persevering exertion in so great and good a cause.

IV. That it be recommended to every family in this Commonwealth, to supply themselves with some temperance publication, that every adult and

child may understand the nature and effect of ardent spirit, and be led to refrain from drinking it, and from furnishing it by sale or otherwise, to be drunk by others.

V. Whereas, several memorials have been presented to this Convention, relative to the inadequacy of the license laws to promote the cause of temperance, and asking the influence of the Convention to obtain a repeal or modification of them:

Resolved, That, deeply as this Convention feels the importance of this subject, it is not the object or intention of this Convention, as such, to act on the subject of legislation, but to enlighten the public mind upon the injurious consequences and incalculable evils resulting to the community and to individuals from the use of ardent spirit, in the confident hope and expectation, that every citizen of the Commonwealth, who has an enlightened and just sense of moral duty, will abandon, not only its use, but the traffic in it.

Resolved, That it is the right of any citizen, or number of citizens, to petition the Legislature, in regard to the injurious effects of any existing laws, and to pray for the enactment of such as will secure the people therefrom; and that this Convention, therefore, trust to the good sense of the people, and the wisdom of the Legislature, to provide such remedy, in relation to the laws granting licenses to vend ardent spirit, as will eventually tend to a total abandonment of the sale and use of it.

Pending the discussion of one of the resolutions reported by that committee, the Convention adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Thursday, Sept. 19. The Convention assembled at half past two o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The discussion of the fifth resolution offered by the Committee of Arrangements was resumed upon an amendment thereof, offered by Mr. Bolles, of Boston. The resolution as reported by the committee was then adopted.

The Committee of Arrangements, reported certain resolutions, which were read, and laid upon the table.

The same committee, reported that the several resolutions submitted to them by this Convention, upon which, from a want of time, they have not been able to report, be referred to the Executive Council of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, which was adopted.

Mr. Edwards, of the same committee, reported an Address to the Public, which was read by the President, and after being amended, on motion of Mr. Perry, of Bradford, and Mr. J. Tappan, of Boston, was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Metcalf, of Mendon, offered the following resolutions, which were read, and, after being amended upon motion of Mr. Morris, of Springfield, were adopted, viz.:

Believing that the publication of the opinion of the Physicians of Boston,* upon the use of ardent spirits, by persons in health, will have a great effect in furthering the cause of Temperance, therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that a similar expression of opinion, by the Physicians generally of this Commonwealth, would be

*See Appendix, B.

highly desirable, and of great importance in promoting the Temperance Reformation; and, in order to procure these opinions, be it further

Resolved, That the Secretaries of the several County and District Temperance Societies, within this Commonwealth, in their circulars to the different local Societies within their respective limits, be requested to incorporate the following questions in them: How many regular Physicians are there within your limits? How many of them will subscribe to the following declaration? "We hereby declare it to be our opinion *that men in health, are* NEVER *benefitted by the use of ardent spirit;* that, on the contrary, the use of them is a FREQUENT cause of *disease and death*, and often renders such diseases as arise from other causes, more difficult of cure, and more fatal in their termination." And in order to bring the expression of this opinion the more directly to bear upon the community at large, be it further

Resolved, That the several Secretaries of the County and District Temperance Societies, upon the receipt of the Reports from the several local Societies, shall cause to be published, appended to the aforesaid Declaration, all the names of those Physicians who shall have signed the same.

Mr. Abbot, of Worcester, offered certain resolutions upon the manufacture and vending of ardent spirits, which were read, and, before any vote was taken, were withdrawn by the mover.

Mr. Reed, of Marblehead, offered the following resolutions of thanks to the Young Men's Society of Boston, to the Massachusetts Society, to the gentlemen who presented copies of the Gold Ring to the American Temperance Society, which were read and accepted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Masssachusetts Temperance Society, for several hundred copies of the examination of the License Law, and Mr. Sargent's Address.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to those gentlemen who have presented to this Convention, several hundred copies of the Gold Ring.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the American Temperance Society for several hundred copies of the sixth Report of that Society, and other pamphlets.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Young Men of Boston, for 300 copies of the "Lecture on Lotteries," by Geo. Wm. Gordon, before their Society, presented by them for the use of this Convention, at the same time that we tender to them our cordial approbation of the benevolent object of their association.

Mr. J. Tappan communicated to the Convention that a donation of 100,000 copies of the "Ox Discourse," so called, had been made for circulation in this State by the liberality of the Executive of the New York State Temperance Society.

Mr. Edwards, of the Committee of Arrangements, reported the following resolution of thanks, which was read and accepted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention, be respectfully tendered to the proprietors of this house, and to the inhabitants of the town of Worcester, and to the delegation from the Temperance Society of this town, for their kindness, hospitality and obliging attention to this Convention, and to its members.

Mr. Grant, of Boston, moved that a contribution be taken up to defray the expenses necessary to publish a report of the proceed-

ings of this Convention. This subject, upon motion of Mr. Sedgwick, was referred to a committee consisting of

Messrs. SEDGWICK, of Stockbridge,
GRANT, of Boston,
BUTLER, of Worcester.

Mr. Reed, of Marblehead, offered a resolution of thanks to His Excellency Gov. LINCOLN, for the very able and dignified manner in which he has presided over this Convention during their deliberations, which was unanimously adopted by the Convention.

Mr. Grant of the Committee upon the subject of raising moneys, reported, that 2000 copies of the report be published, and that a contribution now be taken up to defray the expenses of the same.

Before any vote was taken upon this report, Dr. Edwards informed the Convention, that the necessary funds for the above purpose had been provided by a friend of Temperance, and on motion of Mr. Blagden, Dr. Edwards was requested to communicate to that gentleman the thanks of this Convention, for his liberality on this occasion.

On motion of Mr. Russell, of Kingston, Voted, That the Secretary of the Massachusetts State Society be requested to transmit a copy of the above mentioned report, to each member of this Convention.

On motion of Mr. Sedgwick, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the gentlemen who have performed the duties of its Vice Presidents, during its present session.

On motion of Mr. Reed, of Marblehead, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to those gentlemen who have so ably and faithfully performed the duties of their office as Secretaries, during the sitting of this body.

On motion of Mr. Pierpont, the thanks of this Convention were unanimously voted to those gentlemen who have performed the duties of committees, during the session of this Convention.

On motion of Mr. Ripley, of Boston, Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed to superintend the publishing of the proceedings of this Convention, and

Messrs. RIPLEY, of Boston,
GRANT, of "
SULLIVAN, of " were chosen.

The Rev. Mr. Walker offered prayers at the close of the Convention.

At five o'clock, P. M. the Convention adjourned without day.

EMORY WASHBURN,
JOHN W. YEOMANS,
THOMAS A. GREEN,
LUTHER S. CUSHING,
} *Secretaries.*

Worcester, September 19, 1833.

ADDRESS

TO THE CITIZENS OF MASSACHUSETTS, BY THE

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION,

Held at Worcester, (Mass.) on the third Wednesday of September, in the Year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

This Convention having assembled at the invitation of the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance, and of the Essex County Temperance Society, to devise and adopt measures for carrying the temperance reform into more full and effectual operation in all parts of the Commonwealth, have duly considered the subjects implied in this invitation; and beg leave to submit to their Fellow Citizens, the result of their deliberations.

This Convention have sought to place abstinence from using ardent spirits on some reasonable principle, which will be universally understood, and admitted; they, therefore, assume the following to be fundamental truths:

First. No man can be reasoned with, to any useful purpose, who does not understand, that there are laws ordained by the Creator for the government of human beings as individuals, and in their social relations.

Second. The human family were intended to dwell in domestic, and social connexion.

Third. The members of society are made to be dependent on each other, for the prevention of evil, and for the enjoyment of the reasonable good of life.

Fourth. The continuance and enjoyment of animal life, depends on the using of proper food, in a suitable manner.

Fifth. Understanding was given to human beings, to direct in the using of those things, which are adapted to preserve health, to prolong life, and to render life agreeable.

Sixth. The using of those things, which destroy health, impair strength, and disqualify the understanding to perform its offices, is an abuse of the gift of life, and violates the laws of the Creator.

Seventh. The use of ARDENT SPIRIT is proved by the testimony of physicians, and by *mournful experience*, to be, not only unnecessary as food, or refreshment, but injurious; and also to be the cause of most of the sufferings and wretchedness which are known in society.

Assuming these truths, this Convention have considered by what means they could be made to be generally known, and acknowledged. Reason must be appealed to; for it is not doubted that mankind will not do those acts, which must make them suffer, and make those with whom they are connected miserable, in any case, where reason can have its proper influence.

The object must be, to bring within the reasonable comprehension of all members of society *the true nature of ardent spirits, and the inevitable consequences of using them.* To effect this, it will be useful to advert to the course of reform in temperance, so far as it has hitherto succeeded.

Habitual drunkenness has always been considered disgraceful. No one would be trusted with any employment, public or private, who was known to be a drunkard. But it was not disgraceful a few years ago, to become excited, in social meetings. It is not doubted that at the present day, no respectable member of society would so degrade himself as to lose the use of his limbs, and mind, by intoxicating drink, on any occasion. This sense of personal dignity, is the consequence of better information; and this information has been derived from leading the members of society, to consider the effect of common practices, and to judge of them reasonably. Attention having been, in various ways, drawn to the evil consequences of using ardent spirit, the use has been generally discontinued; and there are now not many well-informed, respectable persons, who will be seen, in public, or private, to take such drink. It is believed, that this change is a radical, and permanent one, as it is founded in reason and good sense; and there seems no ground for apprehension, that any persons who

know, from experience, the real good of total abstinence, will ever again indulge in any use of spirits.

So far reform may be considered as effectual; but there are many descriptions of persons whom it has not yet reached; and the proper inquiry is, by what means it can be further extended? This Convention are of opinion, that the great means are the diffusion of knowledge and moral influence, the effect of example, and the application of the principle, in this case, which is known to be so powerful in all others, *that men will do as other men do.* Whatsoever is the general practice of society, in any matter, acquires the force of established rules. It was the general custom to drink ardent spirit. It may be the universal custom to abstain. It is even more reasonable to suppose that the latter custom may prevail, because it is right and reasonable that it should, since, the opposite custom is now known to be low, vulgar, and disreputable; and because it is the gratification of a base appetite; and because it is associated with dishonor, vice, and infamy. The inquiry then is, by what means that reformation, (as to the nature of ardent spirit and the consequences of using them,) which has already produced a grateful and astonishing change in society, can be further extended?

First. Much depends on EXAMPLE. Every individual can manifest his disapprobation by abstaining himself. He can give his reasons, on all occasions, when the doing so may influence others. The reasons most familiar, and most likely to be effective are, that the using of ardent spirit, as drink, never can do good to any man; that the love of such drink is not a natural habit, but an acquired one; that it is costly; that, like other habits, it may gain an entire dominion; that it is the cause of family dissentions, of poverty, of debasement, and of crime; and that, in truth, nine tenths of all the miseries in society, can, in some way, be traced to the use of ardent spirits. Such is the unquestionable truth, as now understood, by all well informed and respectable people; and they show their own abstinence, in order that it may have its effect in leading others to abstain.

Secondly. The forming of Temperance Societies, on the principle of total abstinence, in villages, in school districts, in manufacturing establishments; in towns, in cities, and counties; and finally, a Parent Society, connected with all these, is a course of proceeding strongly recommended by this Convention.

Suppose there are one hundred men in a neighborhood; and that only ten of them unite in a society. The fact of total abstinence, by these ten men will have an influence on the other

ninety. They will inquire into motives, reasons, and consequences. They will find the motives virtuous; the reasons conclusive, and the consequences, a far better, and a highly improved state of being.

Virtue and intelligence and their consequences, have always commanded esteem and respect in society ; and those persons who are known to be virtuous and intelligent, have always been objects for imitation. This ought to be so, because vices may, in a great degree, be traced to example, and heedless imitation. There should be a plain, simple constitution, formed for such societies; and rules prescribed for the organizing of them, and for their government; which measures should be digested, and prepared by a Parent Society.

Thirdly. There should be County Societies, to whom all societies within the respective counties, may make an annual report, stating the number of members; and whether there have been any lectures, in the course of the year, and by whom; and an opinion as to the means most likely to promote temperance; and what changes for the better have occurred; and all other facts, and circumstances, which may be thought material.

Fourthly. These County Societies should form an abstract of all returns made to them, annually, stating the number of members, in each society, and all facts contained in the reports to them, which it may be material for the Parent Society to know. From these county abstracts, the Parent Society would learn the progress of temperance, throughout the State; and be able to make its annual statement.

Fifthly. As zeal and perseverance are essentially encouraged by unity of action among great numbers, in any common cause, the duty of the Parent Society would be, to publish an annual statement, made from the county abstracts, and transmit a copy to every society in the State; and also to make all such other communications, as may be thought useful, and acceptable.

Sixthly. However effective such measures may be, they will not reach all the consumers of ardent spirits, especially in large towns, and in the city of Boston. There will be a class of persons in these large places, who may not know of Temperance Societies, or who may not be influenced by them, if they do. No mode occurs to the Convention of inducing these persons to abstain, but that of carrying information to them by persuasive, and diligent visiters. These unfortunate members of society, began life under circumstances, which led them to the opinion, that using ardent spirits was necessary to strengthen them for labor; or because they had the effect

of example always before them, and have never known that such use was injurious; and have from these causes become habitual drinkers. These persons find themselves miserable, mostly for the reason that they do use spirits; and then to escape from the sense of their troubles, they resort to intoxication, as the speediest and easiest mode of blunting all sensibility to their sufferings. Yet it may be hoped, that if the true state of the case were made known, even to such persons, they might be persuaded to abstain.

Seventhly. It is the opinion of the Convention, that the press has been of most essential service, in promoting temperance; and they cannot but regret, that any papers which have an extended circulation, are silent on this subject; or do only refer to it, incidentally, in connection with some shocking outrage or crime, which may be traced to the excitement of ardent spirits. It is believed, that the columns of all newspapers, would be rendered more acceptable to readers, if they contained judicious publications, adapted to promote abstinence from such drinks. The general feeling of the community, in favor of temperance, might by such means be strengthened. Those newspapers which are principally devoted to inculcating temperance, deserve the patronage of society; and those who can do no more, in the way of contribution, than to take such papers, may feel assured that they do essential service, in causing the general circulation of such papers. If there be found in them proper matter to strengthen the opinion that total abstinence tends to promote the welfare of society, they will have the satisfaction of knowing, that the statements which please them, are, by means of joint contributions, in small sums, read by hundreds, and perhaps thousands of persons.

Thus the means of promoting temperance seem to be, first, Temperance Societies; secondly, visiting teachers; and thirdly, the press.

It appears to this Convention, that both *interest* and *duty* require of those who have the means of contributing to the expenses of promoting temperance, to use them to that end. As to *interest;* it must be perceived, that if temperance were universal, taxes for maintaining paupers, prisoners, penitentiaries, and alms-houses, would no longer be assessed to their present extent; and might be diminished to a small part of their present amount. The same diminution would occur in the expenses of administering justice. But the still more imperious call is that of *duty.* Lay the saving of money out of the case; and consider only, the duties of humanity, benevolence, and fellow feeling. What a change may be wrought

in the state of society, by expelling the foe, which daily attacks and subdues, the strength, the health, the comfort, and the peace, of the unfortunate thousands who suffer through *mere ignorance*, and who never see any one who could show them the causes of their sufferings!

If every one who pays an annual tax would appropriate a sum equal to one tenth part of his tax, for the promotion of temperance, he might expect to find that amount saved; and more than half of his whole tax, at present paid, also saved, in no very distant time. Besides this, he would have the gratification of feeling, that society was, far and near, growing wiser and better, and that the security of life, prosperity, character, the security of his own children from seductive examples, were, at the same time, established. Nor only this; he would feel that he had been instrumental in diminishing, if not in banishing, a large proportion of sorrow, suffering, crime, and public punishment, from society.

It might be expected, that this Convention would express a decided opinion, on the *distilling* and *sale*, and, perhaps, on the *importation* and *retailing* of ardent spirits.

The proceedings of the Convention sufficiently indicate the leading principle on this subject, which they have deemed it their duty to avow; and also the rule of conduct which they have deliberately adopted for themselves, and would recommend to others.

It cannot be unbecoming in this Convention to congratulate the community, that, in consequence of increasing intelligence which has been diffused in society, many persons, engaged in the distillery, importation, sale, and retailing of ardent spirits, have voluntarily abandoned that business, and have turned their attention and capital to other employments. It is certainly proper to congratulate those who have so done, that in the mere matter of *profit*, they will have suffered no loss; and that the gains from traffic, in other articles, will, in no distant time, secure to them, greater profits, and in some instances from the same persons, than were obtained from the sale of spirits. The Convention consider this highly advantageous change to be a natural consequence of the progress of temperance; and confide in it, as encouragement to persevering efforts to diffuse information; and trust, that conviction, and kind feelings, will, in the end, effect the reform that the humane and benevolent desire.

It might also be expected, that this Convention would express an opinion on the laws, which authorize the licensing of venders of spirits. But this is a matter with which the Convention do not think it proper for them to interfere, further than to express the hope and the belief, that all laws which do

not promote the public welfare, but are hostile to it, will be revised; and that all laws necessary to that end, will be enacted. It is for the citizens, in their political capacity, to devise the remedy, when a remedy for any existing case is wanted. The right of petitioning the legislature, is secured by the constitution. All citizens, individually, or collectively, may address the legislature, on any subject in which they desire its exercise of power. It is supposed, that in an elective republic, a legislature will always make such laws as their constituents think necessary. The friends of Temperance may lawfully do all such acts, as, in their opinion, will inform and enlighten the community. They ought not to doubt, that when they have done all that can be done, to establish correct and sound opinions, that the public laws will soon conform to these opinions.

Wherefore this Convention respectfully submit to the consideration of their fellow citizens, the result of their deliberations, comprised in the foregoing proceedings and resolves.

TO THE FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH.

Fellow Citizens,

The Council of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, take this method fully to respond to the views and sentiments exhibited in the proceedings and doings of the recent Temperance Convention, at Worcester, and to express their determination to meet, so far as may be in their power, the responsibilities of their present relation to the Temperance cause in this Commonwealth. They request the friends of Temperance universally to afford their aid in effecting a complete organization of the State, agreeably to the resolution of the Convention on that subject. Local societies already formed, are respectfully requested to connect themselves with County, or District Societies, and the friends of Temperance, in towns, villages or parishes where no societies exist, are urgently invited to organize themselves into societies as soon as may be, with the view of being connected with County or District Societies.

The Council further request, that, at the proposed simultaneous meetings on the last Tuesday of February, 1834, or at some suitable time previous to the annual meetings of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, all the town societies furnish answers to the questions proposed in the VI. Resolution of the Convention, that the answers be communicated to the County or District Societies, and by them to this Board.

The questions are the following:

What is the population? What number belong to the Temperance Society? How many have renounced the traffic in ardent spirit? How many still continue it? What quantity is used, and at what expense? How many who have been drunkards, now use no intoxicating drink? How many paupers are there in the town,—what is the expense of supporting them,—and what proportion of this is occasioned directly or indirectly by ardent spirit? How many criminals were prosecuted for offences during the past year? At what expense, —and how many of them use no ardent spirit?

The agent of this Society, as soon as may be, will visit the several Counties for the purpose of ascertaining more par-